



## TALKING POINTS: Democrat Rule Changes

**OUR PRINCIPLE:** *We will hold Democrats accountable for promises made, including Speaker Pelosi's pledge for "accountability, honesty and openness." We will fight for minority rights just as we did in 1994.*

Democrats have been composing their Rules package behind closed doors, but the following rules changes are rumored to be included in the bill they will present after electing Nancy Pelosi Speaker next Thursday.

**Eliminating term limits for committee chairs.** The new Democrat majority is poised to restore rules they had in place the last time they held power in the House by eliminating term limits for committee chairs. Today they are limited to three 2-year terms.

**PAYGO budget rules.** Democrats want PAYGO so they can raise taxes, not cut spending. It should be a tool for spending cuts, not tax hikes

**Restore proxy voting.** This rule change would give old-guard committee chairs the power to allow any of their members to vote by proxy (without actually attending committee mark-ups).

**Watered-down earmark reform.** Democrats cannot have it both ways on earmark reform. They were against it before they were for it. Today they only favor a watered-down proposal that requires disclosure of "district-only" earmarks, a move Speaker-designate Pelosi's hometown paper calls a "sham."

**Vague promises on providing "adequate" time to read legislation.** Does this apply to printed copies or electronic copies? Does it apply to amendments in the nature of a substitute? And why are Rules change resolutions and other simple resolutions excluded?

**Democrats appear to be carving out a labor union loophole.** Democrat leaders say their bill will ban the use of company planes by Members by prohibiting the use of official or campaign funds for the use of "non-commercial, corporate jets."

- Democrats have refused to say whether this includes planes owned by non-corporate interests, such as executive jets owned by labor unions.

**Backtracking on guarantee of minority amendments.** Democrats have pledged "a fair and open process for amendments" but Speaker-designate Pelosi has said the minority will be given only a motion to recommit in the first 100 hours.

**K Street reverse-revolving door.** While seeking to ban Members and staff from lobbying for two years after leaving the House, Democratic leaders are hiring a corps of industry and special interest lobbyists to work on their staff. Hypocrisy?